Import of technology for projects by the Indian Space Research Organisation

1313. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Space Research Organisation is seeking the latest technology for its various projects from abroad;

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies and their respective countries, which had been supplying or are to supply technology/products to the Indian Space Research Organisation worth more than Rupees 50 lakhs;

(c) what are the broad details of major technology/products being supplied to the Indian Space Research Organisation by foreign companies; and

(d) what are the details of the indigenisation programme being carried out by the Indian Space Research Organisation to locally develop various products required by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No. Sir. The philosophy behind the Indian Space Programme is to achieve maximum indigenous development of technology with emphasis on self-reliance.

(b) and (c) Acquisition by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) of the knowhow for the design, development and testing of high-thrust liquid rocket engines, from a French firm Societe Europeene de Prooulsion (SEP) in 1974, is the only area where major technology know-how was obtained. In regard to products being supplied to the Indian Space Research Organisation by foreign Companies. the broad details are:

(i) space-qualified electronic components;

(ii) speciality chemicals and materials;

(iii) special tooling;

(iv) high precision equipment for fabrication and testing;

(v) sophisticated computer systems and some special applications software.

(d) A very important aspect of the Indian Space Programme is to aid the development of Indian industrial infrastructure capabilities and expertise. From the beginning, the Indian Space Programme has laid emphasis on self-reliance, and efforts are oriented towards maximising indigenisation in design, development and manufacture of launch vehicles, satellites and the applications/scientific payloads. However, as it is not always possible to do this up to the last component or material, before embarking upon major activities, rigorous reviews take place regarding the indigenous/import options.

Indian industry. both in the public and private sectors, is already involved in the Indian Space Programme in Major areas like (a) supply of materials and components; (b) use of technology transfer of ISRO developed products; (c) technical consultancy and (d) technological utilisation including specialise R&D and fabrication contracts.

Funding is also provided for Technology and Applications R&D projects in academic and research institutions in the country under the Sponsored Research (RESPOND) Programme.

In the satellite area, even for complex satellites presently under development, a number of sub-systems are fully indigenous. Similarly.

maximum indigenisation already exists for ground systems like antennas, displays and many electronic components. In the launch vehicle area also, maximum indigenisation has been achieved in areas like propellants, chemicals and materials. which are obtained from Indian sources, based on ISRO/indigenous knowhow. Efforts have also been made to develop certain critical materials like Beryllium. Maraging Steel, etc.. in the country. A major programme for indigenisation of electronic components has been in existence, in which ISRO interfaces with major industrial units both in public and private sectors for indigenisation of space quality electronic components.

Pak spy and nationals nabbeed on border lines

1314. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Pakistani spies or Pak nationals who were nabbed while crossing the border lines of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir during the year 1985-86;

(b) how many of them were killed and injured by Indian Defence Force during the same period; and

(c) whether they have crossed this side for sabotage or other subversive activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) 331 persons were apprehended by the security forces during the period 1.1.85 to 31.3.86 when they had crossed the border. Out of them, 25 are suspected to be spies.

(b) One intruder was killed as a result of exchange of fire with the Indian Army. 44 intruders were killed by BSF.

(c) the apprehended persons were handed over to the State authorities concerned for investigation and necessary action under the law.

Financial assistance by the Indian Companies abroad to the Terrorists

1315. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press reports to the effect that some Indian companies abroad have been providing financial assistance to terrorists; and

(b) whether the matter has been investigated into and necessary remedial steps have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Government has been the Hindustan Times report of 29th March. 1986 regarding donation by a Public Sector Company to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

(b) The Government does not consider the Palestinian Liberation Organisation as a terrorist organisation. On the contrary India has accorded diplomatic recognition to PLO. The contribution made by the company was for cultural and not for political purposes.

Study made by the National Council of Applied Economic Research

1316. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 6th April, 1986 which referred to a study made by the National Council of Applied Economic Research which pointed out that in future while the lot of the poor would improve, many among those who are not poor might become poor; and